

Campaign envisaging green campuses across 1,000 cities by 2030

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THE HINDU BUREAU



Lt. Governor K Kailashnathan and other dignitaries at the launch of the “Green Campuses for Green Cities” campaign recently. | Photo Credit: Special Arrangement

The 'Green Campuses for Green Cities', symbolising local action to address a larger challenge, was launched recently with the target of evolving environmentally sustainable educational premises across 1,000 cities over the next five years.

The 'National-Level Green Campus Initiative", aimed at achieving environmental sustainability across Universities and higher educational institutions, is spearheaded by Association for Promoting Sustainability in Campuses and Communities (APSCC), lead initiator of the Restoration Decades Global Challenge, and focused on sustainable development, conservation, motivation, and innovation.

The programme is aligned with the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) led by Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), a press note said.

Formally rolling out the campaign, Lt. Governor K. Kailashnathan said the initiative transcends being merely a policy framework, and needs to evolve into a movement that demands collaboration among government bodies, educational institutions, industries, and communities.

He lauded the effort to transform Puducherry into a national model for sustainable educational institutions in the near future.

Golda A. Edwin, convenor and Executive Director of APSCC, and M. Nandhivarman, programme chair, announced that the green campus initiatives would be replicated across the country and beyond in reaching out to 1000 cities through 2030.

Mr. Nandhivarman added that the green campus model developed in Puducherry and Pondicherry University over 15 years of research, was poised to be expanded across various campuses in Puducherry and beyond.

In his keynote address, G. Viswanathan, Chancellor of VIT University, encouraged every institution to actively participate in the green campuses initiative.

M. Dhanasekaran, Chancellor of Takshashila University, lauded the collaborative efforts between academia, government, and industry in promoting ecological conservation and sustainable economic growth not only in educational campuses but also residences. He felt that universities must embrace this mission not only within their campuses but also by actively engaging with local and rural communities.

P. Arulrajan, Chief Conservator of Forests and Wildlife, hoped that the campaign would bridge the gap between legal frameworks and public participation in conservation by positioning educational institutions at the forefront of environmental action through campus biodiversity register and faculty development programmes.

P. Jawahar, Education Secretary noted that the campaign had the potential to transform universities, colleges, and communities into environmentally conscious spaces.

R. Kesavan, Local Administration Secretary, said 'small yet consistent actions toward pollution prevention can significantly slow down environmental degradation.'

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